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March 16, 2015

Testimony in support of HB 5174 An Act Establishing a Children's State Flower

I'm writing this letter in support of establishing the mirabilis jalapa (better known as 4 o'clocks) as the State of Conn. Children's flower.

The 4 o'clocks were the favorite flower of Michaela Rose Petit. Michaela Petit and her life are an inspiration. Even in her passing, she continues to inspire. In her short life, she worked to make a difference. She applied for her favorite motto, "You must be the change you wish to see in the world" – Ghandi, in her everyday life and actions. She was active in her community. She worked to raise money for different causes; from animals in need to raising funds to find a cure for multiple sclerosis. I have been told numerous stories of the kindness Michaela showed others and in so making all who knew her feel comfortable as they were. This is the type of role model I'd like to see our children mentor after.

The 4 o'clocks are diverse in colors and patterns. They bring forth such beautiful and fragrant flowers that range from a plain solid color to others splashed with colors. All of this diversity from one seed, one plant. This is reflective of the diversity of people in our society. As the plant matures, it's very possible it'll change colors and seemingly evolve into new flowering plant. Again, this theory can be applied to our children's lives. As our children mature, we watch them blossom into independent young adults reflecting the cumulative care and nurturing provided throughout their young lives. The fact that we can collect the seeds from the plants and continue to grow more can also be applied. We must always continue to work and we will always have room to grow and evolve.

I find all of this very significant in the message we want to send our children; in the way we want to see them grow and prosper carrying similar ethics of Michaela Rose Petit. Essentially, establishing the 4 o'clocks as the State of Conn Children's Flower is in part establishing an inspirational message to our future generations on diversity, growth and the ability to evolve.

I appeal to you to support H.B. 5174 and establish the 4 o'clocks as the State of Ct Children's Flower.

I thank you in advance for your time in reading my testimony and consideration of my letter supporting H.B. 5174

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